



Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.

Veteran profile: Ron Oree

Ron Oree has been a letter carrier since March of 1997. Since then, the Flushing, NY Branch 294 carrier has been heavily involved in the union, holding various union positions. But before his postal career, Oree served in the Army.

Before both his military and letter carrier careers, he went to college and studied computers, then got a job on Wall Street after graduation. He was a part of the delayed entry program, so he worked at his job on Wall Street for a few months until he began his military training.

In the military, he worked in IT. He entered the Army with a certain rank and immediately went to work in IT because he had gone to school for computers. He served domestically for about two years prior to going to Germany, where he worked on a new computer system. When he got to Germany, Army personnel had just gotten the computer system, so he helped American soldiers learn how to use it. In addition to IT work, Oree did military training and worked with military vehicles.

"It was a great experience," Oree said. "You have so many people around you, all working for a common goal, kind of like the post office."

Oree enjoyed learning about German culture. In his free time, he got into film photography and learned to develop his own photos.

After his four years with the military ended, Oree went back to Wall Street to the job he had before the Army and stayed there for six years. He then became a freelancer.

"I was able to make a living with the computer skills that I had and eventually I ended up taking the test for the post office, because I needed benefits," Oree said.

"What I enjoy about carrying is the



Oree when he was in the Army

way people respect you out on the street, you know, and it makes you feel good that you're doing something that people appreciate," he said.

He draws comparisons with his time in the military to his time as a letter carrier.

"It's very similar," Oree said. "You have the chain of command, which you have to follow."

Oree was inspired to get involved in the union when he saw his co-workers being bullied and having their rights violated. In 2009 he became an executive board member as the sergeant-at-arms. Then, in 2010, he became a local business agent. In 2012 he was the regional food drive coordinator for New York, Connecticut and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Next, he was a Customer Connect coordinator in 2014. He has now served as a national assigned assistant (NAA) for

Region 15 for the past three years. When he isn't carrying out his NAA responsibilities, he carries mail in Flushing and is the financial secretary for his branch.

"I just enjoy giving my knowledge to people and hopefully trying to teach them to defend themselves," he said.

He says that when he first joined the Postal Service, about half of his co-workers were veterans. He said that he has noticed fewer now, but he remembers that time fondly.

"When I first started in the post office, there were so many military people here," Oree said. "It was almost like I never left the military."

He feels fortunate to have had the experiences he's had with both the military and the Postal Service. "I just feel so proud and grateful that I've been allowed to do those things," Oree said. "I'm 63 years old now, so it's been a long time. I really enjoy what I do helping people out, you know, that's my favorite, just helping people."

Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for their military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at nalc.org/veterans.